

ALASKAN GOLD 2 Too Wah

by Mike Locke

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The recent popularity of collecting Alaska gold tokens has highlighted the need for an illustrated list of these pieces. In addition, the origin of these tokens is not well known and an explanation is appropriate.

After the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, San Francisco curio dealer and jeweler Nathan Joseph renewed his production of California gold tokens. In his circa 1924 advertisement, Joseph illustrates his Alaskan Gold 2 TooWah token and provides the following description (see page 21)

Circa 1943 Howard MacIntosh of Tatham Stamp and Coin restruck one variety of the Nathan Joseph Alaskan Gold 2 TooWah tokens. MacIntosh also restruck some of the California Gold tokens. The Tatham Stamp and Coin pieces are gilt copper and lighter in weight than the original gold tokens. The restrikes are also sometimes found in a 1943 dated Tatham Stamp and Coin envelope.

The varieties are listed in no particular order. The pictures are approximately twice actual size. All of the tokens have a plain edge.

continued on page 21

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NEW GOLD TOKENS



Tokens shown actual size.

See page 25

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

I guess you could say this is a gold issue! Our thanks to Mike Locke for his article on the Too-Wah tokens. These have always been a bit of a mystery to me. Sadly, I see the Tatham restrikes on eBay very frequently being sold as the original.

As is evident in the prices realized over the last few months, there have been a large number of Alaska gold tokens on eBay. It seems the way to pump the price is to get them slabbed. We note this month, a couple of sellers trying to "shoot the moon" with extremely high opening bids. Thankfully, these did not result in a sale.

There were a couple of interesting results on eBay this month. The Nome Board of Trade piece sold for only \$56.88. Great buy! The star of the month was Horton & Moore's from Fort Yukon at \$805. Otherwise, it was a fairly quite month.

We are please to offer this month you editor's latest creations in gold. The set is pictured at actual size on the front page, and full descriptions can be found on page 25. Quantities are very limited, so if you would like any of these gold tokens, a phone call would be a good idea.

I will be leaving for another short trip to Massachusetts and be out of the store on Feb. 29, and back in the store March 7. Orders will be filled in the order in which they were received and shipped upon my return.

Our next auction will be April 12. The April newsletter will have the Alaskan items. Look for it sometime around the end of March.

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PRICES REALIZED

Selected prices realized from eBay:

Ellamar , Ellamar Mining, 25¢, B-1c	361.00
Fairbanks , Bredlie's, 12½¢, B-8a	562.00
Fairbanks , Brown Derby, 25¢, B-10d	51.00
Fairbanks , International Hotel, 12½¢, B-29a	275.00OB
Fairbanks , Nevada Bar, \$1, B-37c	89.88
Fairbanks , Northern Cigar, 25¢, B-40bI	34.33
Fairbanks , The Pastime, \$1, B-43a	41.00
Fort Yukon , Horton & Moore's, 50¢, B-5a	805.00
Haines , Brouillette, 10¢, B-3a	OB95.00NB
Ketchikan , Hotel Connell, 5¢, B-11a	60.00OB
Koyukuk , Vernetti, \$1, B-3d	OB .99
Kukak Bay , Hemrich, \$10, B-B-1gI	OB195.00NB
Nome , Board of Trade, 12½¢, B-8g	56.88
Nome , C.W., Whatever, B-11a	OB95.00NB
Nome , The Hoffman, no denom., B-26a	OB95.00NB
Palmer , ARRC, 25¢, B-1d	37.00
Palmer , ARRC, complete set of 8, B-1	699.00
Palmer , ARRC, complete set of 8, B-1, partial	
PCGS MS-61 to MS-63, 25¢ and \$5	
not graded (body bagged for cleaning)	BIN2499.95NS
Yakutat , Y&S Ry., 50¢, B-3c	395.00OB
Dawson , Kilgore & Landahl, bifacial	OB249.99NB
Whitehorse, Yukon , TDP, 25¢	OB9.95NB
Whitehorse, Yukon , TDP, 50¢	OB9.95NB
Whitehorse, Yukon , TDP, \$1	OB9.95NB
AYPE , ¼DWT, NGC-64PL	OB1,075.00NB
AYPE , ¼DWT, NGC-64	OB825.00NB
AYPE , ½DWT	190.50
AYPE , ½DWT, NGC-62	OB1,200.00NB
AYPE , ½DWT, NGC-62	OB1,190.00NB
AYPE , ½DWT, NGC-63	OB650.00NB
AYPE , 1 DWT, NGC AU-58	281.00
AYPE , 1 DWT	220.00
AYPE , 1 DWT	204.50
AYPE , 1 DWT, SEGS MS-63	233.00
AYPE , 1 DWT, SEGS AU-58	135.83

OB = Opening Bid NB = No Bid RL = relist
 RNM = Reserve Not Met R = Reserve W = withdrawn
 BIN = Buy it now DNS = Did Not Sell

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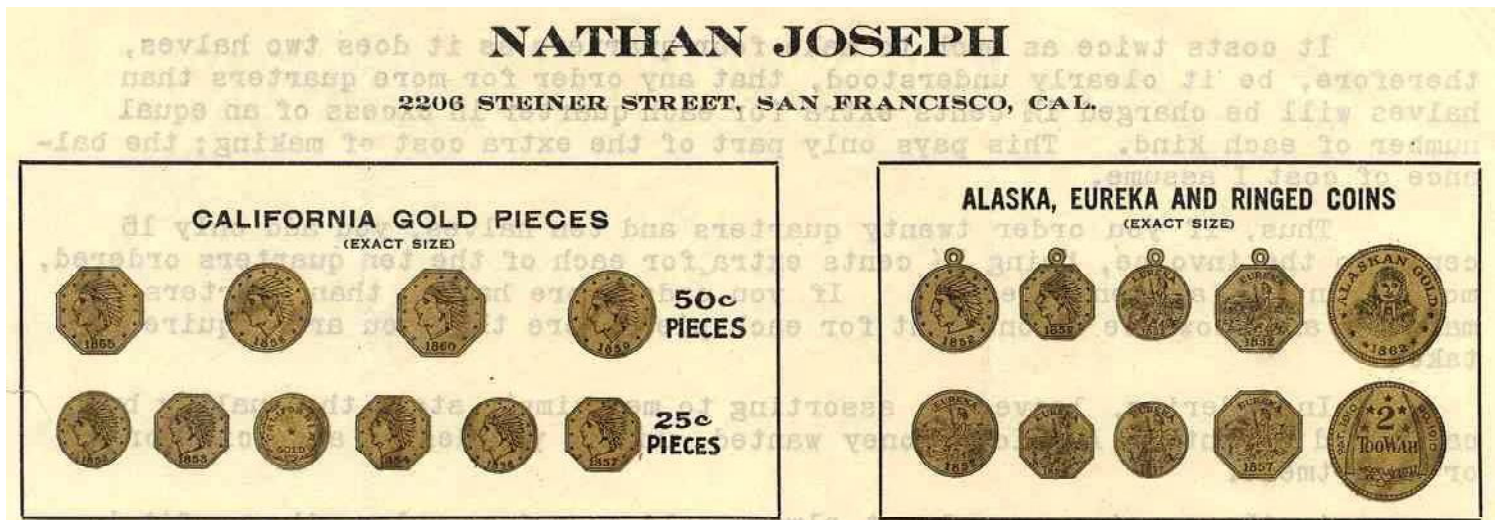
Collector's Advertising Rates:

1 page - \$15 1/2 page - \$8 1/4 page - \$5
 1/8 page (business card size) - \$15 for 5 issues

Classified ads: 20 cents per line.

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ALASKAN GOLD, CONT.



*"I have patented in the United States and Canada a souvenir piece for Alaska. It is of 12-carat gold. A facsimile is presented at the head of this letter. The front has on it an Eskimo in full native dress, surrounded by the words **"Alaskan Gold,"** stars, and the date 1862, the year of the discovery of gold there. The design on the reverse side is two walrus tusks enclosing five stars, the figure 2, and the words **"TOO WAH,"** over a sleigh drawn by two dogs. The words mean "two ivories." These pieces are the size of the United States gold dollar. Price, \$1.15 each, net."*

continued on page 22

SALOON TOKENS OF THE UNITED STATES

by Al Erickson

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ALASKAN GOLD, CONT.

Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #1.



Obv. ***ALASKAN GOLD*** 1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. 2 (of 1862) away from the inner ring, small blunt stars, and no hairs that stick out prominently. Denticles around rim.
Die EskR21

Rev. Five 5-pointed stars in a semicircle above 2 TooWah above a dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD.1910 to far right.
Die A1R21

Diameter: 14.85mm
Weight: 0.74 grams = 11.4 grains
Thickness: 0.65
Note: Gilt copper. Most examples are worn and have most of the gilding missing. Common.



Late Die State as on #1, 14.9 x 0.7mm and 1.43 grams. 14K, coin orientation.

Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #2



Early Die State 15.1 x 0.8mm and 1.42 grams. 10K, medal orientation.

Obv. Die EskR21
Rev. Die A1R21
Diameter: 15.1mm
Weight: 1.42 grams = 21.9 grains
Thickness: 0.8mm
Note: Solid gold, same dies as #1

Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #3



Obv. ***ALASKAN GOLD*** 1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. 2 (of 1862) against the inner ring, top most hairs point between A and N, broad nose. Denticles around rim.
Die ESKR22

Rev. Die A1R21
Diameter: 14.9mm
Weight: 1.37 grams = 21.1 grains
Thickness: 0.85mm
Note: The illustrated token has some gouges on the obverse. 2 known.

ALASKAN GOLD, CONT.

Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #4

Obv. ***ALASKAN GOLD***1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. 2 (of 1862) against inner ring, top most hair points to left stand of N, narrow nose. Denticles around rim.
Die EskR23

Rev. Seven 5-pointed stars in semi-circle above 2 TooWah above dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD. 1910 to far right. Star 1 very close to T with a point aiming at 9. Right tusk wide, long and very close to sled.
Die A1R22

Diameter: 14.9mm
Weight: 1.24 grams = 19.1 grains
Thickness: 0.75mm
Note: Seen with heavily clashed obverse. The illustrated token has been rather harshly cleaned.



Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #5

Obv. Die EskR22.

Rev. Seven 5-pointed stars in semi-circle above 2 TooWah abovedog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD. 1910 to far right. Star 1 away from T with point aiming at second 1. Star 7 fragmented. Right tusk wide, long and very close to sled
Die A1R23

Diameter: 14.9mm
Weight: 1.4 grams = 21.6 grains
Thickness: 0.7mm



Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #6

Obv. Die EskR22.

Rev. Seven 5-pointed stars in semi-circle above 2 TooWah above dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD. 1910 to far right. Star 1 away from T with point aiming at 9. Right tusk narrow, short and away from sled.
Die A1R24

Diameter: 15mm
Weight: 1.31 grams = 20.2 grains
Thickness: 0.8mm



Continued on page 24

ALASKAN GOLD, CONT.



Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Esikimo (Inuit) #7

Obv. Die EskR23
 Rev. Seven 5-pointed stars in semi-circle above 2 TooWah above dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD. 1910 to far right. Star 1 close to T with point aiming at 9. Right tusk narrow, long and away from sled. RD. 1910 in smaller letters than the others.
 Die A1R25
 Diameter: 14.9mm
 Weight: 1.44 grams = 22.2 grains
 Thickness: 0.8mm



Picture courtesy of Todd Lyons.

Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #8

Obv. ***ALASKA GOLD*** 1862 around Inuit facing front in Parka. Small letters, numbers and portrait. Top of most hair points between AN. Widely spaced denticles around rim.
 Die EskR24
 Rev. Seven 5-pointed stars in semi-circle above 2 TooWah above dog sled. Tusks at left and right, with PAT. 1910 to far left and RD. 1910 to far right. All letters and digits small and apparently hand engraved.
 Die A1R26
 Weight: 1.49 grams = 23.0 grains
 Note: Several of this variety appeared simultaneously in 2007. The logotypes do not match the other tokens dies and the fields are rough. Probably a counterfeit.



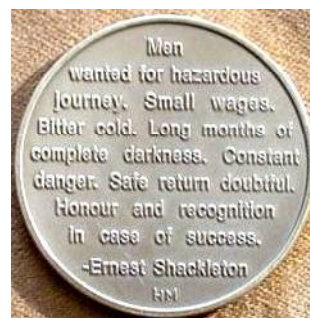
Alaska Round 2 1862/1910 Eskimo (Inuit) #9

Obv. Die EskR23
 Rev. Die A1R23
 Diameter: 14.9mm
 Weight: 1.31 grams
 Thickness: 0.75mm

ENDURANCE EXPEDITION

This is a rather nicely made medal showing the Endurance amid icebergs. It carries on the reverse a famous newspaper advertisement whose existence cannot be confirmed! It is now believed that it was used in a letter soliciting volunteers.

The medal is bronze, 38mm. It bears an HM mint-mark, possibly for the Hoffman Mint.



NEW GOLD TOKENS

This winter, we helped a customer change raw gold into gold bullion coins. Through the local refiner, they sent in over 100 ounce of gold from Eagle Creek, Circle District.



I purchased 5 ounces of the raw gold with the intent to make a new 10 DWT token. I purchased reverse letter punches some months ago, and this was the first opportunity I had to use them. So, I punched and cut the 10 DWT dies. The result of that is illustrated above (actual size). Yes, there are imperfections.

Well, I got sidetracked. I got to thinking about ½ and ¼ DWT tokens. I punched the lettering into the dies for the ½ DWT tokens. The die faces are very small but I was able to stamp in “ALASKA ½ DWT” on one die and “NATIVE GOLD” the other. I struck those and thought, “Cool.” So how about a ¼ DWT? I managed to punch in the lettering “ALASKA ¼ D” on one die. But I got lazy, so I use the ½ DWT Native Gold die on the ¼ DWT. These are enlarged below.



With the 5 ounces that I purchased, I was able to make five sets of five tokens: ¼, ½, 1, 5 and 10 DWT. This set is shown on the front page. All tokens are countermarked with an “E” for Eagle Creek, except for the 10 DWT, which is serial numbered.

We are offering set #5 to readers for \$1,200, postpaid. Also included will be a lead strike from the cancelled Eagle Creek die. This set is illustrated on the front page.

The nominal weight of this set is 16.75 DWT, but actual weights in this set are:

¼ DWT	.266	5 DWT	5.045
½ DWT	.524	10 DWT	10.3
1 DWT	1.127	Total weight -	17.262 DWT

The assay report on the gold that was sent to the refiner showed 86.77% gold, 8.44% silver, thus showing a “burn off” of about 5%. I started with 5 ounces with an 8% loss (burn-off, stuck in the flux in the crucible, a DWT that blew out of the ingot mold on my last pour, and all those little gold flecks on my work bench and on the floor where I punch out the blanks!).

Singles are available as follows:

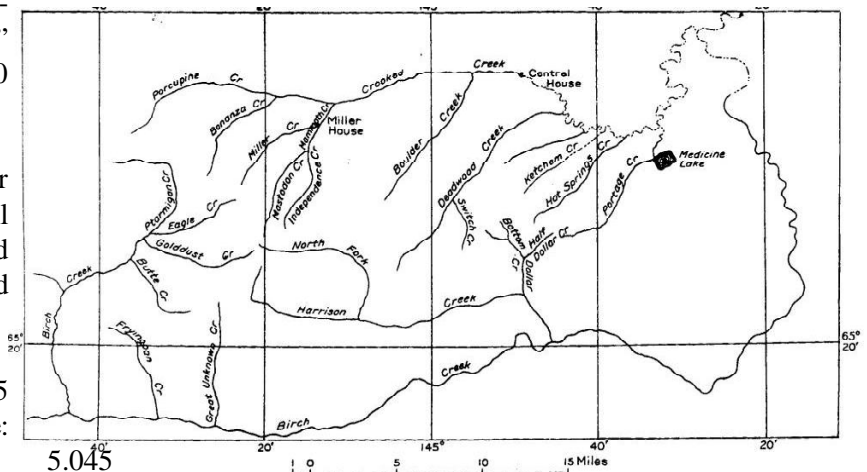
¼ DWT	\$25
½ DWT	\$45

Please include \$5 per order for postage.

As with all our gold tokens, they are limited to the number that we can mint from a given gold purchase. Mint-age figures for Eagle Creek gold are:

10 DWT	5	½ DWT	10
5 DWT	5	¼ DWT	12
1 DWT	6		

What is next, you ask? I have just purchased the disc cutter to make a blank for a 1 ounce token. I have reached the limit of what can be done with a 3# hammer. If I want to go larger than 10 DWT, I have to “invest” in some sort of press. I have seen inexpensive hand operated hydraulic presses. But they just aren’t cool. Anyone out there know where there is an old screw press (also called fly press) on the west coast? In any case, I do not believe the one ounce token will happen real soon, but when the opportunity arrives, it will appear in this newsletter.



Placer streams in Circle District
Eagle Creek is left side, center.
(from Geological Survey Bulletin 910-C)

FOR THE RECORD



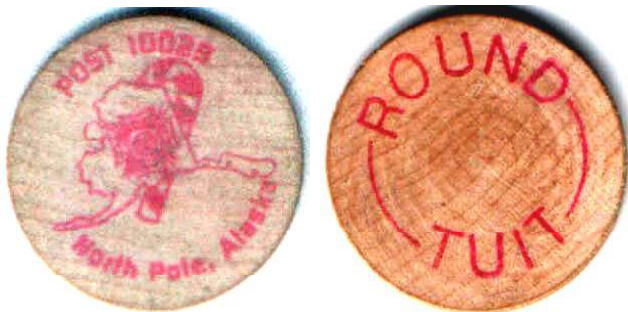
ALASKA/YUKON: Bill & Marlene Holman, Dist. Gov. 5010 (Rotary). Blue on wood (submitted by Dave Phillips).



(ANCHORAGE): Heritage Library Museum, National Bank of Alaska (now Wells Fargo). Blue on wood (submitted by Dave Phillips).



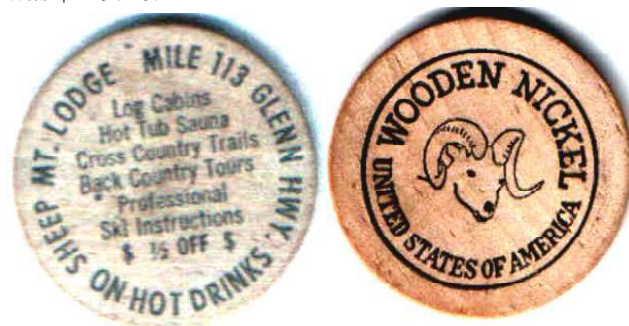
(FT. GREELY): Mohardwoods, TFTCI Geocaching since 5-19-2007. Black on wood (submitted by Dave Phillips).



NORTH POLE: V.F.W. Post 10029, Round Tuit. Red on wood (submitted by Dave Phillips).



LADD A.F.B.: Officers' Club. Seller on eBay states: "This is a box of poker chips from Ladd Officers Club. They are the T MOLD pattern with 26 T's, alternating right side up and upside down. Circa 1930's-1951, made by Taylor & Co. Chicago Ill. They are in orange and purple, with 3 times more purple than orange. Evidently the purple were \$1 chips and the orange were \$5 chips. The purple show much more wear and fading than the orange. They are each hot stamped LADD OFFICERS CLUB on both sides. They measure 1 ½ inches in diameter and are 1/8 of an inch thick. They are in well used condition with some fading on the purple chips." There appeared to be about 100 chips in the box, PR was \$229.16.



SHEEP MT. LODGE: Mile 113 Glenn Hwy., ½ off on hot drinks. Black on wood (submitted by Dave Phillips).

FEEDBACK!

The illustration of the Aleutian World War II Historic Area medal in the December 2007 issue was too light to read. Kurtis Hawk sent the following:

The text on the obverse is Aleutian World War II National Historic Area. (Bottom of Obverse) Fort Schwatka at Ulakta Head / Amaknak Island, Alaska / A National Park Service affiliated area / Established by the United / States Congress / 1996.

Reverse – Ounalashka Corporation. Unalaska, Alaska.

MILITARY CHALLENGE COINS



EIELSON A.F.B.: Cross into the blue. We showed a different version a while ago. Red, green, yellow, blue, white and black on oxidized silver colored metal.



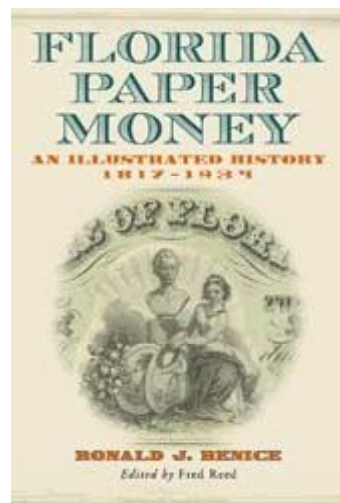
ALASKA: Shield for Alaskan Command, Alaskan Region, 11th Air Force. Reverse is seal of the state of Alaska. Can't tell from the scan what the metal is, but suspect it is bronze.



ALASKA et al: USARPAC Provost Marshall Coin of Excellence; Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, Okinawa, Guam, Johnston Island. I fell asleep on this one. I would have liked to have purchased this as this is the only numismatic item I have seen from Johnston Island, also known as Johnston Atoll. It was a chemical and biological warfare storage and disposal facility in the Pacific, recently offered for sale by the GSA! This web page is no longer on line.

Many times the size of military challenge coins are not reported. Most are 38-40mm, some larger, some smaller. All illustrations are sized to fit our column.

NEW BOOK BY RON BENICE



Florida Paper Money An Illustrated History, 1817–1934, Ronald J. Benice Edited by Fred Reed. ISBN 978-0-7864-3019-2 , 346 photos, bibliography, index 207pp. hardcover (7 x 10) 2008.

Description: The earliest known dated Florida currency was issued by Gregor MacGregor for his independent Republic of the Floridas, which he established on Amelia Island in 1817. Tying together the history and economic development of the state, this catalog of Florida paper money includes currency from Colonial days through the Great Depression.

Detailing 765 notes, it features currency issued by governments such as the Territory of Florida and the state of Florida; scrip issued by various cities and counties; and notes issued by banks, railroads, insurance companies, merchants and individuals. Entries provide information on the paper money's issuers and engravers as well as an estimate regarding each currency's rarity using the familiar Sheldon scale. Whenever possible, the author has identified portraits of real and mythological characters or allegorical representations appearing on the notes.

About the Author: Ronald J. Benice (Sarasota, Florida) is a retired mathematician and telecommunications director. He is also the award-winning author of *Alaska Tokens* (TAMS, 1973 and 1994) as well as many articles on paper money. Fred Reed, editor of *Paper Money* and author of *McFarland's Show Me the Money!* (2005), lives in Dallas.

Published by McFarland. Above from the publisher's website. Available from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.